

## Message Text

SECRET

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51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-10 EB-07 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 /073 W

----- 040243

P R 051600Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1935

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T CAIRO 1366

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON GROMYKO VISIT

1. BECAUSE OF FAHMY'S PREOCCUPATION WITHAL DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING, WE HAVE AS YET HAD NO DEFINITIVE READING ON JUST CONCLUDED GROMYKO VISIT. AT GROMYKO RECEPTION LAST NIGHT PRIMIN, FONMIN, MIN WAR AND MOST OTHER EGYPTIAN CABINET MINISTERS WERE PRESENT. ATMOSPHERE WAS ONE OF RESTRAINED GAIETY, BUT SOVIET OFFICIALS SEEMED GENERALLY PLEASED. SOVIET NAVAL ATTACHE IVLIEV IMPLIED GOE HAD AGREED THAT SOME SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS MIGHT SHORTLY VISIT PORT SAID, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION PURPOSE OR LENGTH OF STAY.

2. FAHMY WAS CONSTANTLY SURROUNDED BY SOVIET HOSTS, BUT THREE OF HIS PRINCIPAL AIDES (ABDUL GAFFAR, SIRRI AND MOHAMMED RIAD) SEPARATELY TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT GROMYKO HAD BEEN MORE "FLEXIBLE" AND "MODERATE" THAN EXPECTED. ONE EVEN DESCRIBED GROMYKO AS "GENTLE" AND CLAIMED FAHMY HAD "DANCED RINGS" AROUND HIM. GROMYKO HAD INDEED PRESSED FOR EARLY RECONVENING OF GENEVA AND HAD WANTED DATE INSERTED IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE. FAHMY HAD FIRMLY REFUSED TO SPECIFY A DATE AND GROMYKO HAD ACQUIESCED WITH GOOD GRACE. THEY PROVIDED NO OTHER SUBSTANTIVE DETAILS.

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3. THIS MORNING HEGAZI RELATED TO AMBASSADOR HOW HE HAD TAXED GROMYKO ABOUT USSR'S FAILURE TO OFFER WHEAT ASSISTANCE. HE HAD POINTED OUT SOVIETS CURRENTLY HOLD ABOUT 30 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT AND THAT EGYPTIAN REQUEST IS FOR NO MORE THAN ONE-HALF MILLION TONS. IF SOVIET PROTESTATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP WERE TO BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE, USSR SHOULD PROVIDE BADLY NEEDED WHEAT. GROMYKO, ACCORDING TO HEGAZI, REMAINED NON-COMMITTAL.

4. IN UNUSUAL CALL BY LOCAL TASS REPRESENTATIVE ON EMBOFF THIS MORNING, HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO STATE GROMYKO NOT ATTEMPTING SPOIL SECRETARY'S UPCOMING EFFORT. HE ALSO INDICATED GROMYKO HAD MET IN CAIRO WITH KHADDAM AND SENIOR PDRY OFFICIALS, BOTH OF WHOM ARE HERE FOR AL DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING.

5. HOPE TO SUBMIT MORE AUTHORITATIVE ANALYSIS ASAP.  
EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1975  
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